

Message Text

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56

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ARAE-00 SCCT-01 DHA-02 AID-05 CCO-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSC-05 SP-02 OC-05 OPR-02

PA-01 USSS-00 PRS-01 SCA-01 A-01 OMB-01 SS-15 SY-05

CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 USIA-06 SCS-03 NSCE-00 SSO-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 /083 W

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O 181636Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2042

C O N F I D E N T I A L CARACAS 1899

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ASEC VE US

SUBJ: EMBASSY ATTACKED BY GUNFIRE

1. AT 4:25 AM CARACAS TIME ON FEBRUARY 17, 1976, THREE SHOTS WERE FIRED AT THE MAIN CHANCERY BUILDING OF EMBASSY CARACAS FROM A WHITE VOLKSWAGEN SPEEDING FROM WEST TO EAST ON AVENIDA FRANCISCO DE MIRANDA (THE LARGE AVENUE WHICH ABUTS THE EMBASSY COMPOUND ON THE NORTH). TWO OF THE BULLETS (9MM. COPPER-JACKETED) HIT THE CHANCERY BUILDING, ONE IN THE COMMERCIAL SECTION ON THE GROUND FLOOR WHERE IT BOUNCED OFF OF THE BULLET-PROOF GLASS, AND THE OTHER IN THE FOURTH FLOOR DRUG ENFORCEMENT ADMINISTRATION OFFICE WHERE IT PENETRATED THE WINDOW, AND INTERIOR PARTITION, AND FINALLY SPENT ITSELF AGAINST THE WALL LEADING TO THE ELEVATOR LOBBY. THE THIRD SHOT APPARENTLY WENT ASTRAY. BOTH BULLETS WHICH HIT THE CHANCERY WERE RECOVERED AND HAVE BEEN TURNED OVER TO THE VENEZUELAN AUTHORITIES (DISIP).

2. AT THE TIME OF THE INCIDENT MEMBERS OF THE EMBASSY VENEZUELAN NATIONAL GUARD DETACHMENT AND EMBASSY PERSONNEL ON DUTY DURING THE SECRETARY'S VISIT HEARD THE SHOTS AND SAW THE
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SPEEDING CAR BUT DID NOT REALIZE THAT THE SHOTS WERE AIMED AT THE EMBASSY OR THAT HITS WERE SUFFERED. THE FIRE WAS NOT RETURNED.

THE BULLET HOLES WERE NOTICED BY A NATIONAL GUARDSMAN
AT 9:00 AM. THE REGIONAL SECURITY OFFICER INFORMED THE
SECRETARY'S SECRET SERVICE GUARDS AND CALLED DISIP
WHICH IS INVESTIGATING THE INCIDENT.

3. THE EMBASSY CANNOT HELP BUT NOTICE THE REMARKABLE SIMILARITY
BETWEEN THE REAL ATTACK ON THE EMBASSY ON FEBRUARY 17 AND THE
REPORT SENT BY PRELA CARACAS TO PRELA HAVANA ON FEBRUARY 16
DESCRIBING AN ATTACK WHICH NEVER TOOK PLACE. ALL OF THE FACTS IN
THE PRELA REPORT OF FEBRUARY 16 MATCH EXACTLY THOSE OF THE
REAL INCIDENT ON FEBRUARY 17 WITH THE SINGLE EXCEPTION THAT
THE ATTACK ON FEBRUARY 17 APPARENTLY WAS MADE WITH
A 9MM. HANDGUN RATHER THAN A MACHINE GUN. (SEE
FBIS 0161438Z FEB 76.)
SHLAUDEMAM

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Message Attributes

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Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ShawDG
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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
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Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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